

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
September 25, 2013
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Merri Dee
Nabi Fakroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen (via telephone)
David J. Walsh
Diane M. Viverito
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Absent

none

Staff

Reva Bauch
LaNade Bridges
N. Keith Chambers
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Mike Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora

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Christine M. Welninski
Jessica Katlin

Members of Public: Princess Dempsey

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On September 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Ronen gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would be unable to be physically present at the meeting.
- 3) Commissioner Ronen requested to participate via telephone. A motion to allow Commissioner Ronen to participate via telephone was made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cosgrove. Motion carried 11-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

August 14, 2013

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes of August 14, 2013 made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro reported that he attended a meeting with the Anti-Defamation League. The subject of the meeting was to discuss areas of possible collaboration between the Commission and the Anti-Defamation League. It was decided that a good point of collaboration would be on the issue of bullying because the Commission has already taken stances in support of legislation meant to address bullying in Illinois. Executive Director Chambers and General Counsel Gray will be working with the Anti-Defamation League on this issue and Commissioner Gash volunteered to help.

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Chairman Castro announced Ryan Croke replaced Jack Lavin as the Governor's Chief of Staff.

IV. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Mr. Chambers reported there are currently no "red flag" issues to address or initiatives that the Commission is attempting to execute.

Mr. Chambers reported that the Governor will be meeting with all agencies to discuss Spring Session Legislative proposals.

Mr. Chambers reported that the audit is still in progress.

Mr. Chambers reported that he and General Counsel Gray, along with senior staff from the IL Department of Human Rights, met with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) Employment Law Committee to discuss employment discrimination legislation. In particular, they discussed a desire by the ICC to have certain amendments made to the Human Rights Act's sexual harassment and arrest record provisions. This issue was previously examined by the Commission's General Counsel and Chief Administrative Law Judge, who both reported to the Commission that they found no reason to support any such amendments. Mr. Chambers advised the Commission that opinion had not changed, nor did the Department appear to be in support of any such amendments.

Mr. Chambers reported on the Lagos Nigerian State House Assembly delegation that visited during the month of September 2013.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that since it is the beginning of the Commission's fiscal year, there was not much to report.

Dr. Ewa reported on Lagos visit, which took place September 16-18, 2013, and which he coordinated, and reported that it was a very good event, and that officials from the Office of the Governor, and other government officials spoke to the delegation on the issue of ethics in governance.

Dr. Ewa gave a brief status report on the Illinois Torture Inquire and Relief Commission.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans gave the report for the Administrative Law Section for the month of August 2013. Judge Evans reported that the intake numbers are presently low, and at this time the reason for the lower numbers is not known.

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D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

Ms. Gray distributed the Commission's 2014 draft calendar for review and approval.

The Commission voted to approve the calendar with the following changes:

- 1) The April En Banc meeting will be moved from April 23 to April 30. The April Panel B meeting will also take place on April 30th.
- 2) The September 17 En Banc meeting along with Panels A and B meetings, will be moved to September 24.

Motion to accept the 2014 Calendar as herein amended made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Viverito. Motion carried 12-0.

Mr. Gray also introduced Fall Coles Fellow Jessica Katlin to the Commission.

Mr. Gray announced that the Illinois Torture Inquire and Relief Commission would be meeting at 3:00 on September 25, 2013, and that she would be in attendance.

V. New Business

None

VI. Petition for Rehearing En Banc

A. Scott Short v. Northern Illinois University

Charge No.: 2004CF3384

ALS No.: 07-123

The Commission voted to deny the Petition. Motion made by Chairman Castro seconded by Commissioner Walsh. Motion carried 12-0.

VII. Unfinished Business

See General Counsel Report on 2014 Calendar.

VIII. Public Comment

A call was made by the Chairman for any public comments. No one from the public chose to comment.

IX. Executive Session

None

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X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel